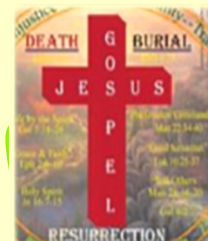




*** THE MIRACLE NEWS ***



First Step Back Home
PO Box 966
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Do This and You Will Have Life- Eternal Life

by Paul Kruse

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We don't hear much about **Eternal Life**. Not being able to see it, we tend not to think about it much. We usually just talk about it to new believers or someone we are trying to convert to become a believer in **Jesus**. There are so many good verses to ponder and digest, I thought I would mention a few.

Luke 10: 27-28: **Jesus** said, "**You answered correctly, do this and you will live.**" (Luke 10:37) **Jesus** also said, "**Go and do likewise!**"

Jesus is talking about the Greatest Commandments here, but also what will happen if we actually act on the Commandments with mercy to others. This is a bonus in our Ministry as we show sympathy, empathy and mercy to the poor. Anyone who helps the poor as a result of their Salvation will be rewarded in **Heaven** with **Eternal Life**.

John 10:28-30: **Jesus** said, "**I give them Eternal Life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.**"

Very encouraging and Loving words. Another confirmation that **Jesus** is also **God**.

Proverbs 8:35: "**For those who find me (wisdom) find life and receive favor from the Lord.**"

All Christians need to Pray and help many more people find **Jesus**.

1 Peter 5:10: "**And the God of Grace, who called you to His Eternal Glory in Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**"

That I can testify to. I have been through some suffering a couple times with **God** in our Ministry!

1 John 2:17: "**The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.**"

Amen! We choose the Greatest Commandments as how to follow **God's** will and have seen His hands in all we do. I am looking forward to **Eternal Life**, which we can't even fathom right now in our human state.

2 Corinthians 4:18: "**We fix our eyes on what is seen, but what is seen is temporary. What is unseen is Eternal.**"

But we do see **God** in the Miracles he performs with our Ministry. There is no way two people can do all this work, so it has to be **God**!

1 John 5:11: "**And this is the testimony: God has given us Eternal Life, and this life is in His Son.**" Amen! No Savior?... Then there is no **Eternal Life**.

1 John 5:13: "**I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know you have Eternal Life.**"

Hallelujah! Just another confirmation of our Eternal destiny!

(continued on Page 2)



Do This and You Will Have Life– Eternal Life *(continued)*

Psalms 139:23-24: “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Amen! What a beautiful Prayer we should all pray often. Anxiety is a big problem for a lot of us in this ever-changing and sometimes demonic world. I think it is getting more dangerous here. I thank **God** in **Jesus'** name every day for His Love and protection!

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

One of the first verses we hear before we accept **Jesus** as our Savior, but a good one to remember always!

John 3:36: “Whoever believes in the Son of Man has Eternal Life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”

God will not let the excruciating death of His **Son** go unrecognized by anyone and they will suffer if they ignore him!

Revelation 21:3-4: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.’ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

It is unimaginable to be in **God’s** presence and live forever under the new life! Looking forward to it.

Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

To me people choose this road to destruction by following men instead of **Jesus**. I call it mass insanity. Example is tons of people start smoking and get hooked on the drug of nicotine and many others follow for stupid reasons. Then they get cancer and die a terrible death. We all need to be trusting in the **Father**, **Son** and **Holy Spirit**, and not drugs or alcohol or anything else!

1 Timothy 6:12: “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the Eternal Life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

God went through a lot of Love and trouble to give us **Eternal Life**, so don’t ignore it.

Romans 8:18: “I consider our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Bring it on. I want that Glory!

Matthew 10:39: “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

So if we live for ourselves and not **Jesus** we lose out on **Eternal Life**, but whoever lives for **Jesus** will find a wonderful life in **Heaven**!

Revelation 1:8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is , and was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

John 5:24: “I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has Eternal Life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

End of story, **God** is the **Almighty** and **Jesus** is **King**. When you believe, trust and obey this with all your heart, soul, mind and might, you are Saved and will be allowed to enter **God’s** heaven for Eternity.

Amen and Amen!



Successful Give STL Day 2021

FSBH came in **FIRST** in the micro sized non-profits, and 8th of all 1077 organizations that participated in the **GiveSTL Day** program May 6, 2021! Nearly \$4.5 million was raised throughout the region! For the fifth year in a row, we won the \$1,000 prize for most donations during the midnight hour. Thanks to our special night owl donors who made this happen once again. (You know who you are)!

Donations were made by some in memory or in honor of the following people: **Mike King**, O'Fallon; **Richard Hertensteiner**, St. Charles; **Rev. Jim Kane**, Wentzville; and **Michael Gary**, St. Charles. Corporate matches were provided by **MasterCard** and **Boeing** for employee gifts.

When all the numbers were tallied, we ended up with \$66,603 from this successful campaign, thanks to about 60 special supporters, donors, and friends of **FSBH**. We were thankful for 15 new donors, some anonymous, and everyone who had a part in this amazing fundraiser day! **Paul** has been very busy helping LOTS of homeless and fragile families with these funds.



Relevant Church Team Gathers Survival Supplies

We were blessed by the **Relevant Christian Church** (St. Peters) members making 20 toiletry packs with snack foods and McDonald's gift cards for clients we connect with daily. **Nancy Biehl** and her daughter **Cristin Battles** brought them over for us to hand them out at one of the meals at the motel one day in April.



Cars for Clients

It was no April Fool's joke for Gabriel who was able to get 4 WHEELS that day from **FSBH**. He'd been trying to get by on a small 2-wheel scooter, but had a better job waiting after getting a dependable vehicle. It's always a joy to see guys succeed. Gabriel was praising **God** for this provision and planning to pay it forward by getting his scooter to someone else who needed it. Thanks to our many donors who make things like this possible!



Due to the generosity of donors, we were able to provide another car for a vet down on his luck. That makes 28 cars **FSBH** has been able to help families acquire! It only happens because others care enough to fund our ministry. Thanks for what YOU can do whenever the Lord prompts your giving.





35 Kids Attend Bible Club at Rolling Meadows MHP



The last week of June we wrapped up a very successful **VBS Kids Bible Club** with friends from **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters, who loved on 35 kiddos from the mobile home park where we provide outreach activities. Led by **Mark Schoonover**, **Greg Stark**, **Debbie Burger** and **Dawn McKee** and coordinated by **Angela Funke**, every evening was action-packed using a theme from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) called **"Discovering Jesus."**

Each evening was started with group games. The favorite and most engaging was the parachute. Kids loved popping up balloons and bean bags from the middle high into the sky, and playing "wave" swirling the colors.

After some outside fun, everyone gathered in the clubhouse for songs, Bible Stories, and a time to learn about the life of African missionary

Mary Slesser who was from Scotland, but spent most of her adult life in the jungle villages. One of the most fun stories for the kids was to get involved unwrapping Lazarus (wish I'd gotten a better photo of him in graveclothes) when **Jesus** shouted, "Lazarus, come forth." Kids got prizes and treats daily for learning their memory verses or bringing a friend.

Ice cream sandwiches and watermelon treats were provided for all the families on the final night.

Grace Community Chapel is the church that funded the playground at **Rolling Meadows**, and the plan had been to hold the **VBS** program outside in the grassy area nearby, but the rainy, soggy week caused us to re-group and hold the evening sessions inside and out of the rain.

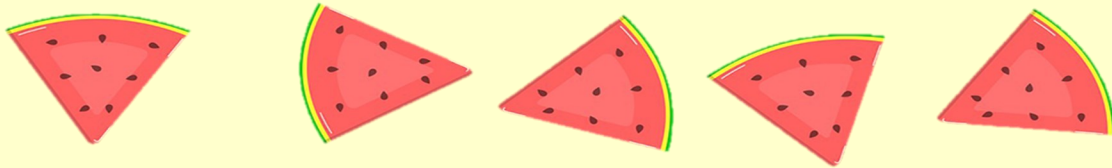




Confirmation Class Project Brings Light for Those in Need



Jude Bross, 14, chose **FSBH** for a service project he needed to complete as part of his Confirmation class at **Assumption Church** in O'Fallon. He and his family shopped and put together 5 boxes of food for our clients at the hotel. They also supplied some backpacks. **Jude** said he's hoping to provide a little light for those in our community who are in need. His parents have been longtime supporters of **FSBH**, having helped to serve meals at the hotel in the past with their church group.



Practical Supplies for Homeless with Phones and Personal Care Items

We love being a conduit of love for the homeless! In May, we picked up 139 personal care bags put together by 5th and 6th graders at **FBC Academy**, O'Fallon. Then we passed them and 4 phones on to our city outreach partner, **Mind the Gap (Ed Kallery)** who meets face to face w/ the homeless on the streets of St. Louis each week. **Ed** says that for some, this provision of a phone can totally change a person's future. Praying for all who have a part in sharing the blessings! We were able to share with about 30 kiddos all about how **FSBH** tries to live out the **Greatest Commandments** by honoring God and serving our neighbors in need.





Save the Date - 13th Annual Christmas Event!

Saturday December 11, 2021 will be the day for our **FSBH 13th Annual Christmas Wonderland**. This year we will be once again holding this as a drive-through event, like we did last year, at **Wentzville United Methodist Church**, 725 Wall Street, Wentzville, MO. Inspired by COVID, this method seemed to work well for clients and for our volunteers, so we're planning to repeat it the same way this year.

Please consider helping by getting the word out to groups you're a part of to make some filled laundry/cleaning baskets. We'll need about 100 this year, as we already have some in storage at this point. The list of items to include is below. We'll also need some **volunteers** to help with the setup and distribution of gifts on both Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11 9 am – 3 pm each day. Sign-ups will be posted on the FSBH website by early November.

Clients will need to pre-register as they did last year, and they'll be assigned to a specific hour for arrival. They will stay in their cars and simply drive through the stations that will be set up in tents or gazebos along the perimeter of the parking lot. We anticipate registration to start in early November, and want to open it first to those who were unable to attend last year, as numbers will once again be restricted to 120 families. Information about this will be posted on the **FSBH** website by early November.



15 Laundry Baskets Filled Through Thrivent Action Team for School Project



FSBH Laundry/Cleaning Basket Suggested Content

Sturdy Basket	Hangers
Hand Soap/Bath Soap	Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap	Powdered Bleach
Bathroom Cleaner	Dryer Sheets
Dusting Spray	Toilet Paper
Stain Remover	Window Cleaner
Sponges	Paper Towels
Dish towels	Toilet Cleaner/Brush

\$5.00 in quarters (optional- for laundromat use)

Who says youngsters can't make a difference? **Anderson Koncki** needed to find a service project for his **Fort Zumwalt Middle School Honor Society** obligation. His parents **Joe** and **Tina** are long-time Thrivent Choice donors, so they told him about creating an Action Team. He decided to help our ministry by putting together some laundry/cleaning baskets. He got his plan together and put out flyers for extra assistance. With the \$250 seed money from his grant through **Thrivent Financial** and another \$300 raised, he was able to make 15 filled baskets for us to use at the **Christmas Wonderland** this year. Way to go **Anderson**! (And thanks to his mom's employer who was willing to store them for us until our event in December)!



Gospel Festival Happening in September

by Chris Bray, FSBH Board Member

A core value of **First Step Back Home** has always been to spread the **Gospel** in as many ways as possible. We've been very blessed to do just that in the growth of the many ministries we've started in our local community, but **God** is good in that He always shows us more we can do!

God laid it on our hearts recently to start an annual revival-style event called the **Gospel Festival**. This year will be our first such event from 10 am – 4 pm September 11th at **Rotary Park** in Wentzville, MO. It's important in these dark times that our community come together to put **God** first and focus on His Kingdom.

The event is free, and attendees will be able to hear several local ministries talk about what they do to further the Kingdom of **God** and bring Glory to **Jesus Christ**. **Steve Gregg**, Bible scholar and radio host of **The Narrow Path** ministry, will also be our guest speaker to present the **Gospel** and talk about what it means to be a disciple in the Kingdom of **God**.

Our goal for the event is to refresh all for the work ahead through fellowship and some great Bible teaching, and also to show how to get more involved in some of the great faith-based ministries that are solving real problems for our community. For further information, contact **Chris** at Christopher.bray@me.com.



GOSPEL FESTIVAL 2021

Rotary Park - Upper Pavilion - Wentzville, MO
10am-4pm

Featured Bible teacher, published author, and radio host of The Narrow Path, Steve Gregg discusses what the good news of the Gospel is and the importance of understanding it within the context of the Kingdom of God. Also, learn how our local community is becoming a hub for Christian mission



Survival Food Packs Bless the Homeless

Another **Thrivent Action Team** project was orchestrated by **Diane Prange**, St. Charles, who purchased and brought us 20 bags of survival food packs for the homeless we encounter regularly. We are so thankful for so many who live generously and extend a helping hand to love on the poor and needy! She and her husband **John Prange** brought them out to us one crisp day last spring.



Watermelon Cake Tower Treat for Clients at Hotel

Ministry friend **Debbie Chisnell**, from **Debbie's Cookie Creations**, created a beautiful 4 layered watermelon "cake" for our hotel meal Fourth of July weekend. She said she had donated it to **FSBH** in memory of the first anniversary of her mother's passing. She wanted to make some blessings to others in the community, and about 25 of our clients were blessed with this delicious and lovely treat!

Debbie's mom, **Kathy Smith**, had worked at SSM Health Care both in St. Charles and Lake St. Louis, and they wrote a lovely tribute about her work there as a concierge and front-desk receptionist. **Debbie** said that making this watermelon creation was one way to carry on her mom's giving heart of generosity and kindness.



SSM Nursing Teams Give Back to Community

by Lana Kruse



Last April we were approached by the Nursing Leaders at **SSM St. Joseph Hospital** – Lake St. Louis, to identify a family in need, for a service project the nursing teams wanted to do as an opportunity to give back to the community during **Nurses' Week** in early May. We got them together with one of our mobile home families, a mom with four kids, and made a wish list of items that would be helpful for over the summer months.

In May, each of the hospital's nursing units participated by collecting specific items, and we were able to show this family with new kitchen dishes, cleaning supplies, groceries, a large microwave, tablets for each of

the kids and something else special for each of the kids' rooms.

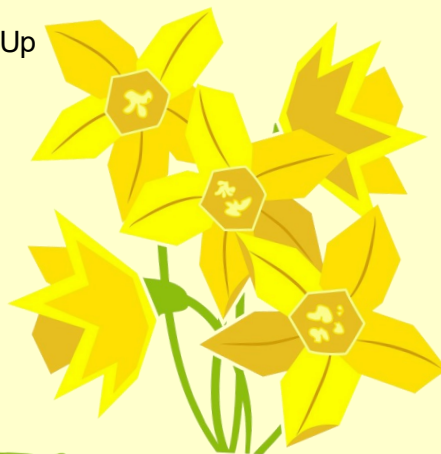
Having retired from the SSM St. Joseph facility six years ago, I still remembered the loving service these health care providers are known for. That loving care was so evident to this family! They were blessed beyond belief by the outpouring of charity they experienced from the **SSM Nurses**.



Recent Donor Acknowledgements

We want to thank several businesses, churches and community groups who have financially supported FSBH this past quarter with these recent gifts. Also during the holidays there were donations made in honor of others in place of Christmas gifts. Such gracious contributions!

- \$22,003 – **St. Louis Community Foundation GiveSTL Day** proceeds (See story on Page 3)
- \$11,031.39 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$10,000 – **Cuivre River Electric Cooperative** – Operation Round Up
- \$3,800 – **Tammy Stratman Brown Charities**
- \$2,224.99 – **Oakridge Baptist Church** – St. Peters
- \$2,500 – **MasterCard** – match from employee donation
- \$2,000 – **Industrial Ally, Inc.** - Chesterfield
- \$2,000 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$1,300 – **Abbie Corporate Match**
- \$1,200 – **Home Maintenance Solution**, Wentzville
- \$1,200 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$900 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$861 - **Thrivent Choice Dollars** as allocations from **Brock Adams, Tina Koncki, David Nickel** and **Diane Prange**
- \$500 - **Commerce Community Bancshares**
- \$300 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$300 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$45 - **New Life Nazarene Church** - \$5 for each visitor
- \$1 – **PayPal Giving Fund**



Thank You

We are so very thankful to all of you who think of donating to our public charity when opportunities present.

Trucker Church Celebrates 20 Years!

A **Trucker Appreciation BBQ** is set for the evening of Saturday, July 24 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of **Trucker Church** at the **TA TravelCenter** in Foristell, MO. **FSBH** Board members will cook up burgers, brats and hot dogs and serve sides and drinks to our trucker friends. In addition, the TA Maintenance Shop staff plan to sponsor a doggie wash during our event. Friends of the ministry will come out with guitars and provide some uplifting music too.

Each Sunday morning in the Drivers' Lounge, **FSBH** Board members **Chris Bray** and **Tom Street** take turns leading an engaging Bible Study and fellowship time for truckers who are able to join us. More than 6,000 drivers and travelers have attended over the years. We provide them with Bibles and other literature to study or pass on to others throughout the week. The first service was held July 31, 2001, and practically every Sunday since then, we've been on-site to provide church services for drivers.

Trucker Church is where **FSBH** began. Back in the early days, the homeless would come to the church services asking for help with lodging, showers, food or transportation. The great gap in services in our region for homeless services, especially for men, was identified, and **FSBH** was officially launched by **Paul Kruse** in March of 2005.





Donation Methods to Support FSBH

We want to remind you that your tax-deductible charitable donation is a great way to support the ministry. We are a public charity per IRS Regulations of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations will be receipted for tax-deductible documentation purposes. Here are several options to consider:

- **Corporate Matching Grant Donations**
 - Some matching grant companies are **Industrial Ally**, **AT&T**, **Wells Fargo**, **Monsanto**, **Boeing**, **MasterCard**, **Pfizer**, **VMWare**, and **Thrivent Financial Services**.
 - Boeing and perhaps other corporations offer **volunteer time grant matches**. If you volunteer 25 hours with our ministry, Boeing will send a \$250 cash gift.
 - If you work for a company that offers match gifting, please initiate the paperwork for this to be done, and we'll complete the required elements so you and others can participate.
- **Write a Check payable to "First Step Back Home"** and send to the following address:
First Step Back Home, Inc.
Paul Kruse
PO Box 966
O'Fallon MO 63366
- **Log onto our ministry website and click PayPal** for direct donation via your credit card. There is a small fee charged to the ministry with this option: firststepbackhome.net
- **Thrivent Members** can create an "Action Team" and receive \$250 "seed money" twice per year for charitable causes. Details can be found at this link: thrivent.com/actionteam.
- When you shop online, use **Amazon Smile** and choose **First Step Back Home** as your charity. They will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You can use this direct link to our page: smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8676289



Meal Ministry Update

Most of the meal groups have resumed serving after a break during the pandemic. In addition, we welcomed new groups this quarter from **Patterson Family Farms**, **Second Chance Christian Ministries**, **First Baptist- O'Fallon** and **Element Church**.



Servers from **First Baptist- O'Fallon**



Servers from the **Burnt Offerings** group from **Element Church**

The current openings are **1st Mondays**, **2nd Tuesdays**, **2nd Thursdays**, **3rd Thursdays**, **3rd Fridays** (odd months only), **4th Sundays**, and **5th Sundays**, **Tuesdays**, **Wednesdays**, **Thursdays**, **Fridays** and **Saturdays**.

The calendar is always available online at firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar. If you are interested in serving, contact Meal Coordinator **Kim Orf** at korf18@hotmail.com.



FSBH Client Services for 2021

Here's a snapshot of where your donation dollars have been spent for the first half of 2021. The data shown below details services rendered by **FSBH** for clients by the type of service and how many people were served.

